



# Seven “grand challenges” of environmental stewardship

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If you want to learn more about the environmental impacts of operations at the Laboratory, you can find all the information you need in our Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) and the associated summary.

The report and the summary contain information on the previous year’s environmental performance, including our compliance with state and federal regulations, environmental protection efforts, air quality, water monitoring, ecosystem health, and radiation protection. This year’s ASER summary was written by a group of exceptional Laboratory students, including a cohort of six local Los Alamos Employee Scholarship Foundation students. These students brought their own perspectives to the summary.

The ASER and its summary provide evidence that we are committed to achieving excellence in science, technology, and national security, while being stewards of the environment. The Laboratory has a long-term strategy for environmental stewardship and sustainability. The strategy identified seven environmental grand challenges to guide the Laboratory’s environmental stewardship and include:

- Collaboration with stakeholders and tribal governments to keep our environmental impacts as low as reasonably achievable;
- Remove or stabilize pollutants from the Manhattan Project and Cold War eras;
- Protect water resources and reduce water use;
- Eliminate industrial discharges and releases to the environment;
- Protect human and environmental health by managing and restoring lands;
- Produce zero radioactive, hazardous, liquid or solid wastes; and
- Use energy efficiently while creating sustainable energy resources.

These grand challenges are grouped into three overarching goals to clean the past, control the present, and create a sustainable future. These goals are used to create annual institutional targets for the Laboratory’s certified Environmental Management System.

For more information about the ASER, the Environmental Management System, and the Laboratory’s Environmental Stewardship programs, please visit our [webpage](#).

— Jen Payne

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